

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CU-02 NSF-01 RSC-01 /018 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6042

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 0061

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OSCI, PINT, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMERICAN TO RESEARCH CORRUPTION IN BIHAR

REF: NEW DELHI 16992

1. PROFESSOR RETTIG CALLED AT THE EMBASSY JANUARY 2. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR BRIEFED RETTIG ON THE SITUATION IN BIHAR AND EXPLAINED THE RESULTANT HIGH DEGREE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY ON THE PART OF CONGRESS POLITICIANS TO DEVELOPMENTS IN PATNA AND BIHAR STATE. RETTIG WAS CAUTIONED TO AVOID PLAYING ANY ROLE WHICH MIGHT BE CONSTRUED AS POLITICAL ACTIVITY. HE WAS ALSO WARNED NOT TO TAKE PART PERSONALLY IN INTERVIEWING SUBJECTS FOR HIS PLANNED STUDY. HE WAS ALSO ADVISED TO CALL ON THE CHIEF SECRETARY OF BIHAR AND MAKE HIS PRESENCE AND ACTIVITY KNOWN TO THAT OFFICER. FURTHERMORE, RETTIG WAS ADVISED TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION THAT HIS PROJECT HAS THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNMENT IN INDIA.

2. THE PROFESSOR HAD SOME IDEA OF THE BIHAR SITUATION, BUT HAD NOT REALIZED THE DELICACY OF THE MATTER. HE ACCEPTED IN GOOD SPIRIT THE ADVICE OF THE EMBASSY AND INDICATED HE WOULD DO HIS BEST TO AVOID GETTING ENTANGLED IN ANY CONTRETEMPS WITH GROUPS WHICH MIGHT DELIGHT IN EXPLOITING HIS PRESENCE.

3. RETTIG AGREED TO REPORT TO THE EMBASSY OR CONSUL GENERAL PICKERING AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ANY TROUBLE.

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